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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Dr. Oswald H. Canley, Executive Secretary
U.S.-U.S.S.R. Programs Secretariat

DATE: October 17, 1974

FROM : Chairman, U.S. Side
US/USSR Joint Working Group on the Production
of Substances by Microbiological Means

SUBJECT: Comments on OSI Document Given to J.M. Leise, Chairman, U.S. Side,
US/USSR Joint Working Group on the Production of Substances by
Microbiological Means on September 30, 1974

The problem in paragraph 2 of the above document merits a response. Although it is correct that members of the U.S. side have not visited Soviet microbiological production facilities, it must be appreciated that the Soviets have not been permitted to see U.S. production facilities that were of interest to them. (There have been instances where Russian visitors did visit some production facilities but were not permitted to see what they really wanted to see.) American industry, for proprietary reasons, does not permit anyone, American or Russian, to view certain of its facilities. The Soviets have been insisting on a quid pro arrangement. They will not show us their complete production facilities if we do not do the same. The fact that their facilities are under government control while ours are under private control, does not impress them at all.

The Joint Microbiological Working Group program is in its initial stages of operation. An extensive research program has been agreed upon, and in addition, an extensive information exchange program has been set in motion. This latter will involve the exchange of annual reports of research done, the exchange of information at conferences, working visits of postdoctoral personnel in each country's laboratories, and informational visits of senior scientific personnel. Through these means we anticipate learning as much about the Soviet research projects as they learn about ours.

One big advantage in having postdoctorals working in Soviet labs is that they will become quite familiar with the work being done and with the people doing the work. However, they will be extremely handicapped unless they learn the Russian language. The Russian "postdoctoral" personnel will spend equal time in American laboratories and will no doubt be able to speak and understand English. This does put the U.S. side at a disadvantage.

Since the microbiology program is just getting underway, it is too soon to determine just what information we will get and what information we will not get. As our cooperative efforts with the Russians continue (and if they continue on a plane of equality), we will know within a period of two years whether or not we are obtaining information equal to that which we are giving.

To the extent possible, all Microbiology Working Group visitors to the USSR will be alerted as to the information that would be of importance to the various working group projects. In a society such as the Soviet's where information is generally restricted, U.S. visitors may not be aware of the

existence of certain laboratories and plants that our scientists should visit and perhaps work in. Should we become convinced that the Russians are not responding in a manner equal to our response, we can then take appropriate action at that time.



J. M. Leise